

4476 Mill Village Road
Raleigh, NC 27612

July 29, 1999

Chairman William E. Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I have over the last several years become concerned with a trend in broadcast radio that I believe threatens many of the values I am proud to share as an American. I see more and more radio stations being bought by fewer and fewer media conglomerates, such that this invaluable natural resource we have is being controlled by just a few individuals. Subsequently, broadcast radio, and I don't limit this strictly to commercial radio either, is becoming increasingly homogeneous and less useful to the diverse population of this country.

I am extremely proud to live in a country made up of an incredible multitude of races, ideologies, cultures, and opinions—so much so that I have dedicated my life to serving this country in the military. When I have traveled and lived overseas in the discharge of my duties, I have seen societies that are perhaps more single-minded as a whole, but, in my opinion, less fulfilled and connected because of it. I do not want to live in a country where everybody thinks alike, acts alike, and is alike.

This is why I urge you to favorably consider the Low Power FM Radio initiative currently being considered by the commission. When I lived in Central Texas from 1991 to 1995, I witnessed station after station get subsumed by a single media company, and the community suffered. Luckily, there was at least one public and one community-oriented station which helped diversify the content available to the public (KUT and KOOP, respectfully). I have not been so lucky in my current location. Commercial radio is almost completely alike across the dial, regardless even of "format." And although there are several public stations in the area, their programming is much the same and does not represent the many tastes and ideas that I know exist in this area and the many neighborhoods and communities of which it consists. Of the many things that are missing, some of the highlights are: local and/or neighborhood politics and activism, "underground" or out of the mainstream music styles, and countless ethnic music styles. Low power FM would give these options back to communities who are forced to accept the (inadequate and unvarying) programming currently offered.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to my representatives in the Congress. I hope they too will urge you to favorably consider the Low Power FM initiative. Thank you for your time and your service to the country.

Respectfully,

John L. Salomone, Jr.